

Amendment

(Amendment Under Article 11)

To: Commissioner, Patent Office

1. INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP03/11965

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4. SUBJECT TO BE AMENDED

Description

Claim

Drawing

5. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT

As stated in the annexed.

(1) Amended in Description P. 5, L. 23, "for selecting the first part order quantity

computing means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time, while for selecting the second part order quantity computing means for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed” to --- for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time, while for selecting the first part order quantity computing means for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed ---. (As underlined)

(2) Amended in P. 11, L. 4, “the parts B carried into the line side 34 become the property of the orderer of the parts.” to --- the parts B carried into the temporary strage facility 32 become the property of the orderer of the parts. ---. (As underlined).

(3) Amended in Claim 3, “j. selecting means for comparing the inputted lead time with the stored prescribed lead time and for selecting the first part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time, while for selecting the second part order quantity computing means for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed; and” to --- j. selecting means for comparing the inputted lead time with the stored prescribed lead time and for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time, while for selecting the first part order quantity computing means for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed; and ---. (As underlined)

(4) Amended in FIG. 5 by switching the places of descriptions “YES” and “NO” each other.

(Note: the numbers of pages and lines in Specification and Claim are expressed in accordance with the English text.)

6. PAPERS ATTACHED HERETO

Description	A replaced paper of P. 4, 8.	1
Claim	A replaced paper of P. 21, 22.	1

Drawing

A replaced paper of FIG. 5

1

indicates a parameter of width, depth, or height of the parts, or the volume thereof.

Further, as recited in claim 3 described below, the present invention configured to have a system for computing an order quantity of parts constituting a product based on a production schedule of the product, comprising: required part
5 quantity computing means for computing a required quantity of the parts based on the production schedule; actual inventory quantity checking means for checking an actual quantity of inventory of the parts; first part order quantity computing means for computing a first part order quantity for a predetermined first period of time based on the computed required quantity of the parts and the checked actual quantity
10 of inventory of the parts; tentative inventory quantity computing means for computing a tentative quantity of inventory of the parts based on a past order record of the parts and a production record of the product; second part order quantity computing means for computing a second part order quantity for a predetermined second period of time, longer than the predetermined first period of time, based on
15 the computed required quantity of the parts and the computed tentative quantity of inventory of the parts; lead time inputting means for inputting a lead time of the parts; part lead time storing means for storing the inputted lead time of the parts; prescribed lead time inputting means for inputting a prescribed lead time to be compared with the inputted lead time of the parts; prescribed lead time storing
20 means for storing the inputted prescribed lead time; selecting means for comparing the inputted lead time with the stored prescribed lead time and for selecting the second part order quantity computing means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time, while for selecting the first part order quantity computing means for selecting the second part order quantity computing means
25 when the inputted lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed; and part ordering means for ordering the parts based on the part order quantity computed by the selected part order quantity computing means.

Specifically, it is configured to have an order quantity computation technique (first part order quantity computing means) that computes a relative
30 relatively short-term part order quantity based on the actual quantity of the parts so as to decrease the quantity of inventory and to achieve a stable part supply, and an

order quantity computation technique (second part order quantity computing means) that computes a relatively long-term order quantity based on the tentative quantity of inventory of the parts (a quantity of inventory computed based on past order quantities and production records) so as to obtain mass production effects such that one of them is selected to be used based on the lead time of the parts. With this, it becomes possible to easily change the part order quantity computation technique in response to the lead time of the parts, thereby enabling to effectively utilize the advantages of two different part order quantity computation techniques. The term "lead time of the parts" used herein indicates

A second part manufacturer 40 manufactures part (a group of parts) B in response to an order from the assembly plant 16. The second part manufacturer 40 is provided with a second part manufacturer computer 40C that sends the shipment quantity of the parts B to the host computer 12, receives the order information of the parts B computed by the host computer 12, and displays the results on a display.

The parts B manufactured by the second part manufacturer 40 are loaded onto a third transporter (freight truck) 42 and are shipped to the assembly plant 16. The parts B are unloaded when the third transporter 42 carrying the parts B arrives at the parking lot 30 of the assembly plant 16. The incoming quantity and the outgoing quantity of parts B (incoming quantity information and outgoing quantity information from the second part manufacturer 40) are inputted or entered to the parking lot computer 30C disposed at the parking lot 30, in the same manner as the case of parts A. The parking lot computer 30C computes the quantity of inventory in the parking lot 30 from the difference between the incoming quantity and outgoing quantity of parts B thus inputted, and sends the result to the host computer 12.

The parts B unloaded at the parking lot 30 are carried into the temporary storage facility 32 after they are accepted by the orderer and the type and quantity of the parts B have been checked. Computation of the quantity of inventory of the parts B is performed from this acceptance by the orderer, and ownership of the parts B for which acceptance is completed is transferred from the second part manufacturer 40 to the orderer. Specifically, the parts B carried into the temporary storage facility 32 become the property of the orderer of the parts.

The incoming quantity and the outgoing quantity of parts B (incoming quantity information and outgoing quantity information of the orderer) are inputted or entered to the temporary storage facility computer 32C disposed at the temporary storage facility 32, in the same manner as in the case of parts A. The temporary storage facility computer 32C computes the quantity of inventory (temporarily stored quantity) in the temporary storage facility 32 from the difference between the incoming quantity and outgoing quantity of parts B thus inputted, and sends the result to the host computer 12.

The parts B temporarily stored in the temporary storage facility 32 are then

carried into the line side 34. The incoming quantity and the outgoing quantity of parts B (incoming quantity information and outgoing quantity information of the orderer) are inputted or entered to the line side computer 34C disposed at the line side 34, in the same manner as in the case of parts A. The line side computer 34C computes the quantity of inventory in the line side 34 from the difference between the incoming quantity and outgoing quantity of parts B (quantity used in manufacturing) thus inputted, and sends the result to the host computer 12.

CLAIMS

3.(Amended) A system for computing an order quantity of parts constituting a product based on a production schedule of the product, comprising:

a. required part quantity computing means for computing a required quantity
5 of the parts based on the production schedule;

b. actual inventory quantity checking means for checking an actual quantity
of inventory of the parts;

c. first part order quantity computing means for computing a first part order
quantity for a predetermined first period of time based on the computed required
10 quantity of the parts and the checked actual quantity of inventory of the parts;

d. tentative inventory quantity computing means for computing a tentative
quantity of inventory of the parts based on a past order record of the parts and a
production record of the product;

e. second part order quantity computing means for computing a second part
15 order quantity for a predetermined second period of time, longer than the
predetermined first period of time, based on the computed required quantity of the
parts and the computed tentative quantity of inventory of the parts;

f. lead time inputting means for inputting a lead time of the parts;

g. part lead time storing means for storing the inputted lead time of the parts;

20 h. prescribed lead time inputting means for inputting a prescribed lead time
to be compared with the inputted lead time of the parts;

i. prescribed lead time storing means for storing the inputted prescribed lead
time;

25 j. selecting means for comparing the inputted lead time with the stored
prescribed lead time and for selecting the second part order quantity computing
means when the inputted lead time is greater than the stored prescribed lead time,
while for selecting the first part order quantity computing means when the inputted
lead time is equal to or less than the stored prescribed; and

30 k. part ordering means for ordering the parts based on the part order quantity
computed by the selected part order quantity computing means.